



## LATE TESTIMONY

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

### TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2012  
8:00 AM  
ROOM 312

### HOUSE BILL NO. 2244 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE INSPECTORS

Chairpersons Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2244. The purpose of this Act is to establish a licensure program to deputize private inspectors for the purpose of conducting inspections on other parts of the United States. We strongly support the intent of implementing pre-entry programs, which reduces the risk of high-risk commodities, such as Christmas trees and leafy greens, but respectfully offer a HD1 for your review.

Nationally, origin inspection programs are done through the establishment of compliance agreements between federal and state departments of agriculture, whereby the origin department of agriculture agrees to monitor the growing, packing, and any treatment procedures needed to insure pest-free status or to insure compliance to quarantine laws.





Hawaii Farm Bureau  
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272  
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org)  
[www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 1, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2244  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312  
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation supports HB 2244 with amendments. In addition to a licensure program to deputize private inspectors located on the mainland, there is a need to extend this program to rural, underserved areas within the state of Hawaii where there is not enough demand for a full-time inspector position. Moreover, travel time and added fees place unnecessary hardship on state employees and the producers who must pay the additional cost associated with inspections in remote areas. This added cost in time and money places rural producers at a competitive disadvantage to their counterparts on the mainland *and* within the state. The proposed amendments are shown in italics below.

(3) The establishment of a licensure program to deputize private inspectors who are not state employees for the purpose of conducting inspections in any other state *and rural underserved communities within the State of Hawaii* of any specific article, substance, or object, or class of articles, substances, or objects, among those enumerated in this section, that is intended to be imported into Hawaii; provided that:...

Should the committee reject the proposed amendment, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation asks that you support carry over measure SB 286 from the 2011 session, which specifically addresses this issue.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer amendments to this measure. Should you have any questions, please contact Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison at (808) 848-2074.